

CHRONOLOGY OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND DOCUMENTS

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ALBANIA. 14 May—Persecution of Catholics (*see Vatican*).

ARAB LEAGUE. 9 May—*Palestine*. The Secretary-General, Abdurrahman Azzam Pasha, stated in Damascus that repeated and fully substantiated reports had reached there that the Zionists in Palestine were intensifying their campaign to terrorize the Arab inhabitants into abandoning certain districts of tactical importance. They were taking advantage of the inadequate protection afforded by the British forces and also of the earlier Arab declaration that the Arab armies would not enter Palestine before 15 May. The Arab States were therefore faced with the urgent need to decide whether in spite of the unwelcome risk of a clash with the British they could resist the demand of public opinion for a movement into Palestine before 15 May in order to stop the massacres of Arabs.

14 May—*Palestine*. Military operations (*see Egypt*).

19 May—*Palestine*. The Secretary-General, Abdurrahman Azzam Pasha, in a press interview in Amman, said that the Arabs were not merely defending the Palestinian Arabs but were fighting Zionism, and that the Arabs' objective remained as before, the prevention of the establishment of a Zionist State in Palestine. Equally, the Arab attitude towards the Jews in Palestine was unchanged. The Zionists were seeking to create a purely Jewish State, but the Arabs were fighting for a Palestinian State in which Jews would have full and equal citizenship, every facility to develop their Jewish life and every encouragement to play a full part in the building up of a united Palestine. There would be no differences and no discrimination between Arab and Jewish citizens. The Arabs expected a long and hard struggle but were resolved to see it through. The Palestinian Arab struggle against the Zionists since the recommendation of partition had been a fiasco, and the Arab Higher Executive had been ineffective. But the situation had now changed entirely, and it was the Jews who had changed it. When the Zionists decided to terrorize the Palestinian Arabs into accepting partition they made a fatal mistake. They put fear into the hearts of Palestinians, but they also put anger into the hearts of the Arab countries and a determination to fight Zionism to the end. The massacre at Deir Yassin had been the turning-point, 'for when the Jews killed Arab village women and children at Deir Yassin they also killed their own child, the Zionist State', and finally convinced the Arab League that Zionism must be crushed. On the progress of the Arab armies he said that the Syrian and the Egyptians were moving steadily, conscious of the difficulties in their paths. The Iraqi Army had had unexpected delays, but the Arab Legion had moved quickly into the area allotted to them. Dangerous and unfounded rumours were beginning to circulate that the Legion was being restrained by the British, but he could state categorically that no restrictions whatever had been made or even suggested by the British.

20 May—*Palestine*. There was a meeting on the Syrian-Transjordan border attended by the Secretary-General, King Abdullah, the Regent of Iraq, the Presidents of Syria and Lebanon, and military leaders to discuss administrative steps to be taken in the liberated areas.

AUSTRALIA. 20 *May*—*South East Asia*. The Government announced that they would spend some £500,000 on scholarships, etc. for Asiatic officials and students as a good will gesture to South-East Asia.

AUSTRIA. 20 *May*—*Occupation Costs*. The Government sent a Note to the Allied Council protesting against a charge of occupation costs for 1948 amounting to 10.5 per cent of the federal Budget. They disputed the legality of the continued military occupation, and asked that no further payments be required pending a settlement through diplomatic conversations with the allied Governments.

BELGIUM. 14 *May*—An agreement was reached between the Christian Social and Socialist parties on the subsidizing of Roman Catholic technical schools, differences over which had brought about the resignation of the Government on 5 May (*see p. 282*). The Regent asked M. Spaak to continue in office, which he agreed to do.

15 *May*—*Palestine*. Note on intervention (*see Egypt*).

BRITISH WEST INDIES. 17 *May*—Closer association committee (*see Great Britain*).

BURMA. 7 *May*—The death sentences on Thu Kha and Maung Ni (*see p. 2*) were commuted to transportation for life.

8 *May*—U Saw and five of those condemned with him were executed.

CANADA. 18 *May*—*Budget*. The Minister of Finance, Mr Abbott, presenting the Budget to the House of Commons, stated that expenditure during the past financial year amounted to \$2,199 million, and revenue \$2,869 million, giving a record surplus of some \$670 million. Gross national production exceeded \$13,000 million, an increase of 13 per cent over the previous year. Net advances for loans to Britain and other governments during the year increased by some \$382 million, of which the largest single item consisted of advances to Britain under the United Kingdom Financial Agreement Act, 1946, aggregating \$368 million. Revenue for the coming financial year was estimated at \$2,664 million and expenditure \$2,175 million. The sales tax of 8 per cent on prepared foods and some other commodities was removed, the entertainment tax repealed, and minor adjustments made in personal income tax. The British preferential duties on cotton and rayon piece goods were suspended until 30 June 1949.

CHINA. 14 *May*—Scattered fighting was reported over a large part of central Shensi and west Honan. Large Communist forces were stated to be massing around Chinchow, the last bastion outside the Great Wall.

15 *May*—*Palestine*. Note on intervention (*see Egypt*).

Inflation. The current rate of exchange for Chinese dollars to one U.S. dollar was understood to be 1,500,000. This was more than double the rate of mid-April and showed an increase of 50 per cent in ten days.

19 *May*—It was reported that the Communists had attacked Chengteh.

CONFERENCE ON GERMANY (LONDON). 8 May—Two of the French delegates, M. Couv   de Murville and M. Alphand returned to Paris. It was understood that there were serious differences between the French and the other great Powers which were holding up agreement on the methods by which a Constituent Assembly for western Germany was to be formed and on the control to be applied to Ruhr industry.

CONGRESS OF EUROPE. 7 May—Mr Churchill, the honorary president, opening the Congress at The Hague, made the following points:

European Unity. 'Great Governments have banded themselves together with all their executive power. Sixteen European States are now associated for economic purposes. Five have entered into close economic and military relationship. We hope that this nucleus will in due course be joined by the peoples of Scandinavia, of the Iberian Peninsula, as well as by Italy, who should now resume her full place in the comity of nations. This is a movement of peoples and not of parties. There is no room for personal or party jealousies. If there is rivalry of parties, let it be to see which one will distinguish itself most for the common cause. It must be all for all. The movement for European unity, as our draft report declares, must be a positive force, deriving its strength from our common sense of spiritual values. It is a dynamic expression of democratic faith based upon moral conceptions and inspired by a sense of mission. In the centre of our movement stands a charter of human rights, guarded by freedom and sustained by law. It is impossible to separate economics and defence from general political structure. Mutual aid in the economic field and joint military defence must inevitably be accompanied step by step with a parallel policy of closer political unity. It is said with truth that this involves some sacrifice or merger of national sovereignty. But it is also possible to regard it as the gradual assumption by all the nations concerned of that larger sovereignty which can alone protect their diverse and distinctive customs and characteristics and their national traditions, all of which under totalitarian systems, whether Nazi, Fascist, or Communist, would certainly be blotted out.'

Germany. 'The German problem is to restore the economic life of Germany and revive the ancient fame of the German race, without thereby exposing their neighbours and ourselves to any rebuilding or reassertion of their military power. United Europe provides the only solution which covers both these fields, and it is also a solution which can be adopted without delay.'

Eastern Europe. 'Our aim here is not confined to western Europe. We seek nothing less than all Europe. We aim at the eventual participation of all peoples throughout the continent whose society and way of life are not in disaccord with a charter of human rights and the sincere expression of free democracy. We welcome any country where the people own the Government, and not the Government the people. All the States of the east and south-east of Europe except Greece are constrained to hold aloof from us, and most of them are not allowed to express them-

selves by free democratic electoral processes. We cannot aim at anything less than the union of Europe as a whole, and we look forward with confidence to the day when this will be achieved.'

World Organization. 'I have always believed, as I declared in the war, that a Council of Europe was a subordinate but necessary part of the world organization. I thought at that time, when I had great responsibility, that there should be several regional councils, august but subordinate, and that these should form the massive pillars upon which the world organization would be founded in majesty and calm. To take an example from the military sphere, the design for world government might have followed the system of three or more groups of armies—in this case armies of peace—under one supreme headquarters. Thus I saw the vast Soviet Union forming one of these great groups. The Council of Europe, including Great Britain joined with her Empire and Commonwealth, would be another. Thirdly, the western hemisphere with all its great spheres of interest and influence had already become effective, and with it we in Britain and in the Commonwealth were also linked by Canada and other sacred ties. In the mind-picture which it was possible to form as victory in the war became certain there was the hope that each of these three splendid groupings of States and nations—whose affairs, of course, would sometimes overlap—might have settled within themselves a great number of differences and difficulties which now are dragged up to the supreme world organization and that far fewer, but also far more potent, figures would represent them at the summit. To some extent events have moved in this direction, but not in the spirit which was needed. The western hemisphere already presents itself as a unit. Here at The Hague we are met to help our various Governments to create the new Europe. We are all grieved and perplexed and imperilled by the discordant attitude and policy of the third great and equal partner, without whose active aid the world organization cannot function nor the shadow of war be lifted from the hearts and minds of men and nations.'

Aim of Congress. 'How little it is that all the millions of homes in Europe represented here to-day are asking: a fair chance to make a home, to reap the fruits of their toil, to cherish their wives, to bring up their children in a decent manner, and to dwell in peace and safety, without fear or bullying or monstrous burdens and exploitations. The freedom that matters most to-day is freedom from fear. Why should all these hardworking families be harassed, first, as in bygone times, by dynastic and religious quarrels; next by nationalistic ambitions, and finally by ideological fanaticism? Shall so many millions of humble homes in Europe, aye, and much of its enlightenment and culture, sit quaking in dread of the policeman's knock? That is the question which, perhaps, we have the power to answer here. We are here to lay the foundations upon which the statesmen of the western democracies may stand, and to create an atmosphere favourable to the decisions to which they may be led. It is not for us who do not wield the authority of Governments to confront each other or the world with sharply cut formulas or detailed arrangements. There are many different points of

view which have to find their focus. We in Britain must move in harmony with our great partners in the Commonwealth, who, I do not doubt, share our aspirations and follow with deep attention our trend of thought. Nevertheless we must not separate without a positive step forward. We must here and now resolve that in one form or another a European assembly shall be constituted which will enable that voice to make itself continuously heard and we trust with ever-growing acceptance throughout all the free countries of this continent.'

Mr Brugmans (chairman of the European Union of Federalists) said: 'We want the creation of federal European institutions with full powers, capable of bringing into existence a new league of free peoples.' There should be rapidly created a series of self-contained but interdependent specialist agencies, such as a European staff headquarters, European railways, European coal commission, power control unit, and especially a European labour exchange.

Mr Kerstens (Catholic Deputy in the Dutch Parliament) said that through the 'folly of individual sovereign policy' Europe had become a 'hopelessly divided and vulnerable continent with all characteristics of a civilization doomed to go under'.

M. Paul van Zeeland (former Belgian Premier) said that instinctively the nations of Europe understood that the time had come to act. A serious moment had arrived which might decide their future for a long time to come or even for always. It was 'radically impossible' to carry on in the old way. 'The peoples of Europe have the necessary courage. All they need are leaders to point the right way.'

Count Carandini (former Italian Ambassador in London) said the Marshall Plan was important not only in its material aspects but even more for its incentive to a closer association between the nations taking part. 'We hope the fruits of economic union in Europe will be a genuine political federation. The countries of Europe are faced with the choice of declining one by one or enjoying a political rebirth together.'

Mr Gafencu (former Rumanian Foreign Minister, now in exile) said when the body of Europe was divided, western Europe could not live if eastern Europe died. The prospect of a United Europe represented the one hope of liberation for those countries now cut off from western Europe. It was not enough to 'leave the door open'. The countries of eastern Europe could not pass through as long as the weight of Communist totalitarianism rested upon them.

9 May—Mr Churchill, M. Ramadier, the President of the Congress, and other leading delegates addressed a mass meeting at Amsterdam.

10 May—The Congress was concluded and the reports of the political and economic committees were passed.

The political report stated that the Congress would leave in existence a committee to frame a definition of democracy precise enough for deciding which nations could come into a voluntary federation of united Europe and to draw up a charter of rights. The Congress organization would continue to study the proposed 'integration' of Germany in a federated Europe. The committee suggested that the proposed European assembly should be convened as soon as possible.

The economic report urged the reduction of Customs duties between member States, steps that would pave the way for the free convertibility of currencies, the drawing up of a common programme of development for the basic industries of the whole area, and the promotion of mobility of labour. It also set forth a list of ultimate objectives and certain matters for future study, including the establishment of a commission to organize migration in Europe and the absorption of the 1,500,000 displaced persons.

CYPRUS. 11 May—Proposals for a constitution (*see Great Britain*).

12 May—*Jewish Illegal Immigrants*. It was officially stated that illegal immigrants now detained would be released as soon as the Jewish Agency was prepared to ship them to Palestine. Until then they would remain in detention under the laws of 1946. The two immigrant ships *Pan York* and *Pan Crescent* would also be released.

20 May—*Constitution*. The Consultative Assembly discussed the British proposals. The Mayor of Nicosia opposed them on the ground that executive power would remain entirely in the hands of the Governor and Executive Council, whereas he claimed a constitution with a Government fully responsible to the people.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. 9 May—*Constitution*. At its final session, the Constituent Assembly adopted, by 246 votes to none, the new Constitution on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, Mr Gottwald.

18 May—*Palestine*. The Government announced that it had granted recognition to the State of Israel.

DENMARK. 9 May—*Northern Union*. Prime Minister's statement (*see Sweden*).

EGYPT. 12 May—*Palestine*. The Government announced that the country would be placed under a state of siege as from midnight that day to enable Egypt 'to decide its attitude and assemble its forces on the Palestine frontier so as to be able to undertake military action to repulse Zionist attacks on Arab Palestine'.

13 May—*Palestine*. The Government stated that the Army would begin moving across the Palestine frontier on 15 May, one minute after the mandate expired. The Prime Minister, Nokrashy Pasha, stated that the Arab States would, from 15 May, take the place of Britain in financing the Arab Legion. Parliament had already voted Egypt's share, £E630,000, of the sum, £E3 million, needed. It was learned that some 30,000 refugees from Palestine had arrived in Egypt.

14 May—*Palestine*. The Government issued the following communiqué at midnight: 'Orders have been given to Egyptian armed forces to enter Palestine with the object of restoring security and order in that country, and putting an end to the massacres perpetrated by terrorist Zionist gangs against the Arabs and against humanity.'

Proclamations had previously announced that martial law was enforced from midnight and that the Prime Minister was Military

Governor, also that merchant ships were liable to be searched at Egyptian ports. On Government orders prayers were said in all mosques for the success of Egyptian arms and Imams spoke on the theme 'Holy War for the liberation of the Holy Land'.

It was learned that the Arab Governments had approved that King Abdullah should be supreme commander of the Arab forces on all three fronts, and that he should be advised by a war council on which the staffs of all the Arab armies would be represented. They had agreed that the Syrian and Lebanese armies should operate under a unified command in northern Palestine, Iraqi and Transjordan forces on the east, and Egyptian, Saudi Arabian, and Yemenite forces on the south.

15 May—*Palestine*. A Ministry of Defence communiqué stated: 'Egyptian forces crossed the eastern frontier at dawn on 15 May. Our artillery went into action against the heavily fortified settlement of El Dangoor. The remainder of our forces continued to advance, passing Khan Yunis. El Dangoor was wiped out and set ablaze after the defenders refused to surrender. Our forces are advancing towards Gaza, which was entered at 6.45 p.m. by our vanguard. Our bombers carried out a successful raid on Tel Aviv, where hangars and aircraft were destroyed or set alight. The settlements of Beit Hanon and Biron Ishak, north and south-east of Gaza, were bombed. Fires were started among vehicles and aircraft. In a second raid on Tel Aviv, electric plant was hit. All our aircraft returned safely except one, which landed twelve miles north of Tel Aviv. All operations so far were preceded by aircraft dropping leaflets asking the Zionists to surrender and to avoid bloodshed. Our losses are very small.'

An earlier communiqué said that Egyptian forces were obliged to use artillery to bombard the concrete defences of the settlement of Kfar Girom, sixteen km. from Gaza, and after completely demolishing them left the settlement in flames.

The Foreign Minister, Ahmed Khashaba Pasha, received the representatives of Britain, the U.S.A., France, China, Belgium, and Poland and informed them of the reason which led to the entry of Egyptian troops into Palestine. He also handed over a Note saying that the troops had entered to establish law, order, peace, and security. 'The civilized world listens with horror to tales of how Zionist terrorists have spared neither women and children, nor old people, and have put their prisoners to the worst kind of torture. The Egyptian Government in denouncing these crimes has intervened in this neighbouring country to put an end to these massacres and to re-establish respect for universal morality and the principles recognized by the United Nations. The Egyptian Government declares that this intervention is not directed against the Palestine Jews but against the Zionist terrorist bands.'

16 May—*Palestine*. It was stated that Egyptian forces were regrouping after the occupation of Gaza.

Police continued to round up persons suspected of Zionist or Communist tendencies, and it was stated that several hundred were under arrest.

17 May—*Palestine*. A military communiqué said there had been

considerable patrol activity and mopping up operations along the whole front. Bombers raided the Shemen settlement, dropping high explosives and incendiaries. Fuel tanks and ammunition dumps as well as armoured concentrations were hit and left in flames. Tel Aviv harbour was raided and direct hits registered on quays, oil tanks, and oil refineries, starting fires. A mass air attack was carried out on Tel Aviv airfield in the afternoon. Six aircraft were destroyed on the ground and heavy damage inflicted on airfield installations. All the aircraft returned to base.

It was stated that Gaza would be the operational headquarters of the Egyptian army.

It was learned that Saudi Arabian troops were arriving by air to fight with the Egyptians.

It was learned that the Government had sent a Note to all the Powers informing them that all ships transporting war materials and supplies for the Zionists would be stopped. Palestine territorial waters must be considered a danger zone.

Military orders were issued that all arms and ammunition bound for any destination might be confiscated if the ship containing them stopped at an Egyptian port and that all goods in transit to Palestine which were useful to the Egyptian military effort would be confiscated. A Belgian ship was seized for transporting war material to the Zionists. Goods in transit to Palestine were confiscated in Alexandria from four ships flying the Norwegian, Italian, British and Egyptian flags respectively. Some cargoes included arms.

The Ministry of National Defence issued orders forbidding aircraft from flying over Egyptian territory between 1700 and 0300 hours.

The Polish Minister visited the Foreign Minister and informed him that Egyptian aircraft had damaged a Polish ship at Tel Aviv. He was told that the Powers had already been advised as to what must now be considered danger zones in Palestine.

The President of the American University in Cairo protested to President Truman against U.S. recognition of Israel and the proposed repeal of the arms embargo (*see p. 342*).

18 May—*Palestine*. A military communiqué stated: 'Light forces infiltrated deeply into enemy territory, returning with valuable information. Mopping-up operations are continuing on a large scale. Military objectives south-east of Tel Aviv were bombed. Direct hits were registered and fires started in a petrol storage zone. This afternoon our artillery hammered defences in the region of Imara, south-east of Gaza, scoring repeated hits. Several explosions were observed and fires started. These defences are of great importance, as they are one of the Zionists' main supply and repair bases. Our planes bombed and raided the settlements of Deir Sied and Nagba. Fires were started and the settlements machine-gunned. All the aircraft, with the exception of one, returned to their base.' . . .

The Prime Minister, Nokrashy Pasha, commenting on U.S. and Soviet recognition of Israel, said: 'We shall pursue our present policy until we reach our objective in Palestine.'

19 *May—Palestine.* A military communiqué stated that Egyptian forces had occupied Beit Hanoun, north of Gaza. Aircraft attacked Deir Seneid and Tel Aviv.

The Chamber of Deputies increased credits for the army in the field by £9 million.

20 *May—Palestine.* A military communiqué stated that Beersheba had been captured. Deir Senid settlement, north-east of Gaza, which was heavily fortified 'according to the most modern defence methods, and was ringed by a chain of pillboxes surrounded by barbed wire entanglements and minefields spread over a wide area', was also captured.

EIRE. 18 *May—European Recovery Programme.* Mr Sean MacBride, Minister for External Affairs, said that Eire might not be able to avail herself of aid under the programme. 'Announcements from Washington so far indicate that in the case of Eire aid will be given only by way of loan. In as much as our exports to the western hemisphere are negligible we should have no means of repaying any dollars which the U.S.A. might be kind enough to offer us. Hence it appears to me that we may find ourselves unable to avail ourselves of the aid if it is to be by way of loan.'

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. 11 *May*—The special U.S. Ambassador for E.R.P., Mr Averell Harriman, had his first meeting with the Council of the organization.

FINLAND. 20 *May*—Parliament passed by 81 votes to 61 a motion of no confidence in the Minister of the Interior, Mr Leino (Communist), as having been responsible for a police régime since 1945.

FRANCE. 8 *May—De Gaulle.* The President of the Republic, M. Vincent Auriol, in a speech at Amiens, urged the people not to give themselves over to 'useless and artificial agitations'. Elections would come in due time as foreseen by the Constitution 'but I ask that in face of the tremendous work to be done criticisms should be constructive, loyal, and courteous'.

9 *May—De Gaulle.* At its national congress at Toulouse, the M.R.P. passed, with only three abstentions, a motion denouncing 'all manoeuvres to create an artificial electoral fever in the country'.

15 *May—Palestine.* Note on intervention (*see Egypt*).

18 *May—Yugoslav Frontier* Note (*see Italy*).

20 *May—Palestine.* The Assembly voted a resolution of 'fraternal greetings' to Israel and appealed to the Arab States to 'respect the principles of international co-operation'. All but Communists and Socialists abstained.

Provisional Central Government for Viet Nam (*see Indo-China*).

GERMANY. 7 *May—Strike.* As a protest against the reduced bread ration, some 10,000 workers went on strike in Hamelin and 7,000 in Schaumburg. (There were already 70,000 on strike in Hanover.)

8 May—*Berlin*. It was announced that owing to the illness of Major-General Kotikov (U.S.S.R.) the scheduled meeting of the four commandants would not take place on 11 May.

12 May—*Bizone*. Lord Pakenham concluded discussions with allied and German authorities in Frankfurt. He later told the press that there was no question yet of Germany having a Foreign Ministry or a War Office in any provisional Government. In no case was there a question of a German army being allowed, and he had heard of no suggestion for a skeleton force from any responsible German quarter. He added: 'But if the Germans are not allowed to defend themselves they will be defended.' Asked if Germany would be permitted to choose its own protector, he remarked that, if the people could choose, they would wish for a united Germany in which all the allies remained on good terms. The Germans had been told that when they could control themselves as democratic people—this, he considered, would come quicker than many people thought—they would take their place on an equal footing with other nations, and then they would need diplomatic representation. He disagreed with the argument that, by creating a western German Government, the British and U.S. allies renounced their position in Berlin. The western allies stood for the principle of the unity of Germany, but they desired to see it united from the west. If a western Government were established with a view to uniting Germany, then Berlin, psychologically, became a most important outpost on the march eastward. 'We intend to stay in Berlin.'

Strike. All workers in Lower Saxony who were on strike, except some 40,000 in the metal and chemical industries, voted to resume work the following day as the aim of the strike, a uniform bread ration throughout the bizon, had been achieved.

13 May—*Bizone*. Trade talks (*see Great Britain*).

16 May—*Palestine*. Dr Hoffman, Jewish Agency director in Germany, declared that 70 per cent of the Jewish D.P.'s, including some 15,000 young men fit for civil and military duties, would go to Palestine as from July.

19 May—*U.S. Zone*. The U.S. authorities temporarily prohibited the import into and the sale, circulation, and display within their zone of all Soviet-authorized publications because of what was described as the 'smothering-out' of U.S. licensed and sponsored publications in the Soviet zone.

20 May—*'People's Congress'*. The U.S. and French authorities announced that they would not allow the 'People's Congress' petition on German unity to be organized in their sectors of Berlin. It was stated that the U.S. action was taken because the 'People's Congress' was not an organization recognized by the *Kommandatura*.

GREAT BRITAIN. 10 May—*Palestine*. It was understood that the Government had informed the United Nations that certain assets of the Palestine Government, estimated at £50 million sterling, at present held in London, would not be released until they were assured that British and other foreign economic interests in Palestine would be respected.

11 May—Cyprus. The Government, in putting forward their views on the most suitable form of future constitutional development for the island, said they could not agree with the proposals of eight Greek members of the Consultative Assembly which embodied the principle of fully responsible Government in the internal affairs of Cyprus. They agreed with the tentative outline of a constitution already put before the Assembly and said they would be unable to approve a constitution which fundamentally exceeded these proposals in the direction of full self-government. It was proposed that there should be a substantial number of elected members in the Legislature and that the number of these should be twenty-two, or approximately one for 20,000 of the population. Eighteen members should be elected on the general electoral register and four on the Turkish communal register. The chairman would not be a member of the Legislature. To ensure that the Legislature was properly informed it was proposed that four senior officials, the Attorney-General, the Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Senior Commissioner have seats in it. Elections should be held at intervals of either four or five years, with every male British subject having one vote from the age of twenty-one.

Yugoslav Frontier Note (see Italy).

12 May—U.S.-Soviet Relations. Mr Bevin, answering questions in the House of Commons on the interview between Gen. Bedell Smith and Mr Molotov (*see p. 344*), declared: 'The Government always have been and remain anxious for a general solution on a world-wide basis, if that is possible. In view, however, of the references to the European Recovery Programme and to the Five-Power Treaty by the Soviet Government, I wish to make it clear that nothing that has happened can affect the development and execution of those policies, which are not directed against any one, but are legitimate developments necessary alike for our own and European prosperity and security. . . . I am not anxious to enter into further conferences until the ground has been cleared. I really think that to have a conference and break down again is going to cause such terrible disappointment in the world. I still believe that a great deal of the ground can be cleared by diplomatic approach and exchange of views. If we can do that the preparatory work for a conference can be effective. But I suggest that merely to call a conference on the basis of generalities, without precise preparatory work, again is going to land us exactly where we were with the Four-Power Conference.'

Jewish Illegal Immigrants. Official statement (*see Cyprus*).

13 May—Germany. The Board of Trade stated that talks had been held with the Joint Export-Import Agency in Frankfurt in which trade between the Bizone and the sterling area was reviewed. It was expected that the trade for 1948 between Britain and the Bizone would balance at about \$80 million in each direction.

European Recovery Programme. Mr Bevin received Mr Averell Harriman, special U.S. Ambassador for the programme. Statement by the Administrator (*see U.S.A.*).

Jerusalem. The Under-Secretary for the Colonies, Mr Rees-Williams, told the House of Commons that Jews and Arabs had agreed to the

appointment of Mr Harold Evans, an American member of the Society of Friends, as Special Municipal Commissioner in Jerusalem. He also stated that the Arab League had accepted the terms of the truce proposals for the city.

Palestine. The Foreign and Colonial Offices issued a statement on the termination of the mandate. They stated that when the Government announced their intention to withdraw all British forces from Palestine by 1 August they had striven for twenty-seven years, without success, to reconcile Jews and Arabs and to prepare the people of Palestine for self-government. The policy adopted by the United Nations had aroused the determined resistance of the Arabs, while the States supporting this policy were themselves not prepared to enforce it. Eighty-four thousand troops, who received no co-operation from the Jewish community, had proved insufficient to maintain law and order in the face of a campaign of terrorism waged by highly organized Jewish forces equipped with all the weapons of the modern infantryman. Since the war 338 British subjects had been killed in Palestine, while the military forces there had cost the British taxpayer £100 million. In these circumstances H.M. Government decided to bring to an end their mandate and to prepare for the earliest possible withdrawal from Palestine of all British forces. Although British responsibility for Palestine had ceased, it was the earnest hope of H.M. Government that as both sides came to realize the tragic consequences of attempting to conquer Palestine by force some compromise might yet be possible which would prevent the destruction of all that had been achieved and which would enable the people of Palestine to live at peace and to govern themselves. To that end H.M. Government were still prepared to give every assistance in their power, short of imposing by force a solution not acceptable to both peoples.

14 May—*Trade Agreement.* An agreement was concluded with Spain providing for the import to Britain of potash, pyrites, iron ore, and foodstuffs and the export to Spain of coal, machinery, chemicals, and electrical goods.

15 May—*Palestine.* Note on intervention (*see Egypt*).

16 May—*Palestine.* Professor Brodetsky, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, issued a statement expressing the 'joy of Anglo-Jewry at the re-establishment of the State of Israel in Palestine after nearly 2,000 years of wandering and dispersal'. It continued: 'British Jews recall with pride that it was Britain that issued the Balfour Declaration and accepted the Palestine mandate from the League of Nations. In spite of the misunderstandings of recent years, as well as the circumstances of the ending of the mandate, British Jews will always remember the noble part played by Balfour, Lloyd George, Churchill, Smuts, and other men in making possible the development which has led to the setting-up of the State of Israel. We are grateful to the members of the United Nations who at the General Assembly last November brought about the historic decision in favour of Jewish Statehood, and we thank the President of the United States for the rapid *de facto* recognition of the State. We hope that his Majesty's

Government will soon act in the same way. At this solemn and fateful hour the whole of British Jewry unites in rendering thanks to Almighty God, for to-day the Lord hath wrought deliverance in Israel.'

17 May—*Palestine*. Mr Shragai, a member of the Jewish Agency executive, addressing a synagogue meeting in London, said that the war now being carried on in the name of Transjordan, Iraq, and Egypt was in reality being conducted against the newly-established Jewish State by the British Government.

British West Indies. The Colonial Office announced that, following the resolutions of the Montego Bay conference in September 1947 (see III p. 558) a standing committee had been set up under the chairmanship of Sir Hubert Rance to make recommendations for the closer association of the colonies.

18 May—*Ceylon*. The Treasury reached an agreement with Ceylon on the use of the Dominion's sterling balances for the period 30 April to 31 December 1948.

19 May—*European Recovery Programme*. Appointment of head of mission to Britain (see U.S.A.).

20 May—*Gatow Air Crash*. Compensation refused (see U.S.S.R.).

Bevin Speech. Addressing the Labour Party Conference at Scarborough, Mr Bevin made the following points:—

European Recovery Programme. 'The Government would have been guilty of one of the greatest crimes against our own people if they had fallen down under Mr Molotov's threat of what he would do to us and France if we had failed to go on. I will submit to no threats from any nation. We have decided to carry on, and in that work our team has done a great work. If we harness the Commonwealth and those overseas territories for which we are responsible to the skill, ability, and productive capacity of the West we can solve our balance of payments and they can have a continually rising standard of living for generations to come. That is British foreign policy.'

Defence. 'We must proceed to develop regional pacts where we can, and not wait for the final agreement of every one. Let those who will come in do so. That will ultimately lead to universal collective security and a regional arrangement which will most help to obliterate war.'

Germany. Currency reform was absolutely essential. The Government intended, whatever the provocation, to stay in Berlin.

Greece. He could not ignore the fact that 500,000 people in Greece were homeless because of the rebels and that children were being abducted. One lift of a finger by a certain country would stop the fighting overnight.

GREECE. 7 May—*Government Changes*. Mr George Melas was appointed Minister of Justice in succession to Mr Ladas, and Mr John Politis, Minister of National Economy in succession to Mr Varvoutis.

8 May—*Executions*. The Minister of Information issued a statement in answer to foreign public criticisms which said that the delay in executing the culprits should have been taken rather as proof that Greece was not acting out of passion or rage. The accused had been

given every legal means of defence and their cases had gone through every court with complete publicity. The delay in carrying out the sentences of death had been due to the fact that there were nearly 3,000 under arrest, and as most of them were accused of multiple murders each case had been tried separately.

HUNGARY. 9 May—Socialist-Communist Fusion. The programme of the United Workers Party was published by the Socialist and Communist newspapers. The war on capitalism was to be intensified, but on the land private tenures of peasants were to be respected while co-operative farms were developed. The coalition form of government was to give way to a strong 'independence front'. All schools were to be nationalized and religious teaching dispensed with.

14 May—Trade Agreement. An agreement was concluded with Poland under which the economic plans of the two countries would be co-ordinated. They also agreed to arrange an exchange of technical improvements as well as lessons learnt in the running of a planned economy.

15 May—Nationalization of Schools. The Minister for Education, Mr Ortutay, in a statement on nationalization, said that all pastors teaching in State schools would keep their existing stations and their jobs and would receive the same salary as State teachers. The obligatory teaching of religion would be maintained.

17 May—Nationalization of Schools. The Prince Primate, Cardinal Mindszenty, issued a pastoral letter to be read every hour in all Catholic churches in the country threatening with excommunication, all who, in the conflict between the Church and State over nationalizing the schools, took the side of the State.

19 May—Resignation of Minister to U.S.A. (see U.S.A.).

HYDERABAD. 16 May—Border raids (see India).

INDIA. 16 May—Hyderabad. It was stated that Indian villages along the border had been attacked by the Razakars.

18 May—Trade Unions. The first conference of the Indian National Trade Union Congress which had been meeting in Bombay, was concluded. The president, Dr Rajendra Prasad, said that the I.N.T.U.C. (which had been organizing for a year, under the auspices of the Indian National Congress, to compete with the All-India Trade Union Congress, which was under Communist control, and with other trade unions influenced by the Socialists and by minor political bodies) had now affiliated unions representing 800,000 out of a total of between 2 million and 3 million industrial workers. The statement of policy passed included a demand for a minimum living wage for workers of 150s. monthly, and the restriction of returns on invested capital plus reserves to 3 per cent where this minimum was not attained and to 5 per cent otherwise. One of the objectives of the I.N.T.U.C. was declared to be the full exploitation of the conciliation machinery, with the use of strikes only as a last resort.

INDO-CHINA. 19 May—In the negotiations between France and Viet Nam it was decided to establish a provisional central government for the whole of Viet Nam, to be composed of ten members from each of the three *ky*—Annam, Tongking, and Cochin China.

20 May—Gen. Xuan, President of the Council of Cochin China, was elected President of the first Provisional Central Government.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS. 19 May—The conference opened in Paris. The president, Mr James Turner (Britain), said that the need to expand agricultural output was greater than ever before. Under the best possible conditions world food production in 1951 would be no greater than in 1939, but by that time the world's population would have increased by 200 million. To obtain better yields agriculture needed vast quantities of machinery and fertilizers. It was the object of the I.F.A.P. to assist Governments with the development of primary production so that a decent standard of living and trade stability could be the lot of all peoples.

20 May—Sir John Boyd Orr, former director-general of the F.A.O., pointed out that even if there were a good 1948 harvest the world food shortage would continue, since the population was increasing all the time and people were demanding better food. In the U.S.A., with full employment and good wages, food consumption had risen by 15 per cent. The F.A.O. must persuade nations to collaborate in a world food plan. The wheat agreement was a step in the right direction, but farmers really needed an assurance of markets for twenty years ahead.

IRAQ. 9 May—*Palestine*. The Prime Minister of Lebanon, Riad as-Sulh, who arrived in Baghdad with the Prime Minister of Syria, after consultations with King Ibn Saud in Riyadh, said the King had agreed that the Saudi-Arabian army should join in Arab League military action to prevent the establishment of a Zionist State.

14 May—*Palestine*. The Government proclaimed martial law.

16 May—*Palestine*. It was announced that Iraqi mechanized forces had crossed the Jordan and occupied electric power installations at Naharayin.

18 May—*Palestine*. The Defence Ministry stated that Iraqi units, which had surrounded Gesher, had occupied the village and station, forcing the Zionists into a stone fortress. The operation was preceded by bombardment from the air, by artillery, and armoured cars.

19 May—*Palestine*. The Ministry of Defence stated that Iraqi units had mopped up areas, previously occupied, west of the Jordan.

20 May—Regent with King Abdullah (*see Transjordan*).

ITALY. 8 May—*Elections*. Sr Giovanni Gronchi (Christian Democrat) was elected president of the Chamber of Deputies and Sr Bonomi (Independent) president of the Senate.

11 May—*Presidential Election*. Senator Einaudi, vice-Premier and Minister for the Budget in the retiring Government, was elected President. He received 518 votes and Sr Orlando 320.

15 *May—Palestine.* An appeal was issued by Hagana asking young Jewish men and women to enrol for the defence of the State and another by the Irgun asking for money for the Jewish forces. Reports stated that 200 volunteers had already sailed.

18 *May—Yugoslavia.* The Government, in a Note to Britain, the U.S.A., France, and the U.S.S.R., stated that they had failed to reach an agreement with Yugoslavia over the frontier between the two countries, and asked the four Powers to intervene and to refer the whole question to their respective Ambassadors.

JAPAN. 9 *May—Census.* The results of the national census of 1 October 1947 were published. The total population was estimated at 78,627,000, of whom 78,090,363 were actually registered.

KOREA. 9 *May—U.S. Zone Election.* Rioting occurred as the result of numerous strikes called by the Communist trade unions. Reports stated that 93 people were killed and 200 Communists arrested.

In broadcasts directed to the U.S. Zone the Soviet-controlled Pyong Yang station broadcast a statement by the Soviet Commander, General Korotkov. It said: 'The Government of the U.S.S.R. has had the necessary arrangements made for the immediate withdrawal of its forces from Korea in order to make American troops withdraw simultaneously.'

10 *May—U.S. Zone Elections.* Polling took place for the election. It was estimated that 92 per cent of the voters cast their votes in Seoul and about 80 per cent in other areas.

LEBANON. 7 *May—Palestine.* The Minister for Home Affairs and Health, M. Chamoun, in an interview to the press, spoke of the Zionist danger to Lebanon if the Jews succeeded in forming a Jewish State, which, he said, was intended to include Lebanon, Syria, and Transjordan at a later date. The Foreign Ministers of the Arab League had decided on 26 April to invade Palestine, but the Arab States were to be blamed for their military unpreparedness and the Palestinians for their lack of organization. The Arabs were now defending the world against Communism, which was being introduced to the Middle East under the cover of Zionism.

9 *May—Palestine.* Prime Minister's statement (*see Iraq*).

20 *May—Palestine.* It was announced that sixty-nine Zionists on their way to Palestine in a U.S. ship had been detained and those capable of bearing arms sent to a concentration camp.

NETHERLANDS. 8 *May—Regency.* It was announced that Queen Wilhelmina was again obliged by ill health to lay down temporarily the exercise of the royal power and that Princess Juliana would act as Regent.

9 *May—Churchill speech (see Congress of Europe).*

12 *May—Queen Wilhelmina* announced in a broadcast that for health reasons she would abdicate in September in favour of Princess Juliana.

NORWAY. 9 May—*Northern Union*. Prime Minister's statement (see *Sweden*).

PAKISTAN. 9 May—*Peoples' Party*. Khan Abdulghaffar Khan was elected president of the newly formed party at its first convention in Karachi. He advocated the necessity of good relations with India.

12 May—*State Bank*. It was announced that on 1 July a State Bank would come into operation which would act as banker to the Government and control the Dominion's currency and foreign exchange. Fifty-one per cent of the capital would be subscribed by the Government and the rest by the public, no one being allowed to hold over 500 shares.

18 May—*Palestine*. The Foreign Minister, Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, told the press that there was a probability of the Arabs setting up an Arab State for the whole of Palestine at an early date. The Government was seriously considering a resolution passed by the Muslim League party urging that all possible assistance should be given to the Palestinian Arabs. 'There can be no possible doubt which way the sympathy of the Government lies.'

PALESTINE. 7 May—*Jerusalem*. The High Commissioner issued a statement saying that he had seen representatives of the Arab League, including Azzam Pasha. The Egyptian Consul-General in Jerusalem had also been present at the meeting. A truce for the whole of Jerusalem was discussed, and the Arabs had agreed to maintain a cease fire in the city from noon the following day, provided the Jews did the same. Hagana later issued a statement saying they would give orders for a cease fire.

9 May—*Truce Proposals*. It was announced that the terms were being communicated to both Jews and Arabs.

The High Commissioner had talks with the Consular Truce Commission and the principal representative of the International Red Cross. The Government stated that, provided the necessary formal and independent requests were made to the Red Cross it would agree to its plan for putting Jerusalem under the Red Cross Flag.

Arab States. Azzam Pasha's statement (see *Arab League*). Saudi-Arabian army (see *Iraq*).

10 May—*Assets of Palestine Government held* (see *Great Britain*). *Jerusalem*. The International Red Cross delegate stated that the organization's plan to make the city a 'hospital' inside which every one would be disarmed had received the verbal support of all parties. The Jewish Agency later denied that any agreement had been made.

It was reported that the Jews were in control of both sides of the Jerusalem road where Arab road blocks had been placed.

11 May—*Jerusalem*. Further fighting was reported near Bab el Wad along the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road. The 'cease fire' was broken and there was heavy machine-gun firing in the city.

12 May—The G.O.C. Palestine announced that the area his troops would occupy in their withdrawal would be, roughly, the coastal strip

from south of Acre to the Egyptian border, except for Jaffa and Nathanya.

Jewish illegal immigrants (*see Cyprus*). Military action (*see Egypt*).

13 May—*Jerusalem*. Appointment of Special Commissioner (*see Great Britain*).

Statement by Nokrashy Pasha (*see Egypt*).

Jaffa. An agreement was reached between Jews and Arabs under which the Arabs gave over control of the city to the Jews and also handed over their arms and ammunition to Hagana.

14 May—After a brief ceremony the High Commissioner, Sir Alan Cunningham, left Palestine. The British mandate ended at midnight.

Kfar Etzion, Jewish settlement south of Hebron surrendered to the Arab Legion.

Israel. After a meeting of the Jewish National Council (Vaad Leumi) in Tel Aviv the following proclamation was broadcast: 'We, members of the National Council, representing the Jewish people in Palestine and the Zionist movement of the world, met together in solemn assembly on the day of the termination of the British mandate for Palestine, and by virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish people and by resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, hereby proclaim the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine to be called "Israel". As from the termination of the mandate at midnight to-night and until the setting up of duly elected bodies in accordance with the constitution to be drawn up by the Constituent Assembly not later than 1 October 1948, the present National Council shall act as the provisional Government of the State of Israel. The State will be open to all Jewish immigrants, will promote the development of the country for all its inhabitants, will be based on the precepts of liberty, justice, and peace taught by the Hebrew prophets, will uphold full social and political equality for all its citizens without distinction of race, creed, or sex, and will guarantee full freedom of education and culture.' The proclamation also promised safeguards for shrines and religious places of all religions, and that the State would dedicate itself 'to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations'. It appealed to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in building their State, and sought admission into the United Nations. It called upon the Arab inhabitants of the 'State of Israel' to return to ways of peace, and promised them full and equal citizenship and representation in the State bodies and institutions. Peace was also offered to the neighbouring Arab peoples. It concluded: 'With trust in Almighty God we set our hands to this declaration in the city of Tel Aviv on this Sabbath eve, the fifth day of Iyar, 5708 (according to the Jewish calendar), 14 May 1948.'

Portfolios were distributed as follows: Prime Minister and Defence, David Ben Gurion; Foreign Affairs, Moshe Shertok; Treasury, Eliezer Kaplan; Communications, David Remez; Trade, Industry, and Supplies, F. Bernstein; Home Affairs, I. Grunbaum; Immigration, M. Shapiro; Labour and Public Works, M. Bentov; Agriculture, A. Zisling; Police, B. Shitreet; Justice, F. Rosenbluth; Ministers without Portfolio, Rabbis J. L. Fishman and I. M. Levin.

Recognition (*see United States*). Military operations (*see Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan*). Jerusalem trusteeship rejected (*see United Nations*).

15 May—*Israel*. Three air attacks were made on Tel Aviv; one aircraft was shot down and the Egyptian pilot taken prisoner. Hagana announced that they had occupied all the former British security zones in Jerusalem and controlled all roads out of the city except the main Tel Aviv highway where fighting was still going on.

Jewish Agency appeal (*see Security Council*). Arms embargo (*see U.S.A.*).

Arab operations (*see Egypt*).

16 May—*Israel*. Dr Chaim Weizmann was elected president of the Provisional Council.

Hagana claimed to have made contact with Lebanese forces and captured Malakir village on the Lebanese frontier. They also claimed the capture of the Arab villages of Deir Ayoub and Latrun on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway. The Arabs were stated to have shelled the western suburbs of Jerusalem.

The Foreign Minister, Mr Shertok, stated that the Council had applied to the fifty-eight members of the United Nations and to some other Governments for recognition.

Appeal against Egyptian intervention (*see Security Council*). Brodetsky statement (*see Great Britain*). Arab operations (*see Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and Transjordan*). Displaced persons (*see Germany*).

Jerusalem. Fighting continued between St George's Cathedral and the Damascus Gate between Hagana and Arab irregulars. In the Old City the Arabs began an attack on the Jewish quarter with mortars. The Jews were in occupation of the German colony and tried to relieve the Old City Jews by an attack on the Zion Gate.

17 May—*Jerusalem*. Arab artillery shelled northern Jerusalem intensively, two shells falling in St George's Cathedral close, damaging the Bishop's car. The Arabs continued their attack on the Jewish quarter of the Old City. The Armenian Patriarchate, sheltering about 3,000 refugees, was hit by mortars, causing several dead and wounded.

Arab Operations. Arab irregulars occupied Neve Jacob, a Jewish settlement five miles north of Jerusalem. The neighbouring settlement of Ataarot had been evacuated and overrun the day before (*see also Egypt and Syria*).

Israel. Weizmann accepts presidency (*see U.S.A.*). Britain accused (*see Great Britain*). Recognition (*see U.S.S.R.*). U.S. Resolution (*see Security Council*).

A communiqué reported heavy fighting near the Jaffa and Damascus Gates of Jerusalem. The Jewish quarter of the Old City had been heavily attacked. Hagana had strengthened their positions in the Germany Colony, Baqaa, and Musrara quarters.

Hagana stated that a raid had been made across the Lebanese frontier to blow up a bridge over the Litani River.

18 May—*Israel*. Hagana announced that Acre had surrendered unconditionally after seventy-two hours' fighting. South of Lake Tiberias they had opened a dam near Dagania, overwhelming and

drowning a force of Iraqi soldiers with their equipment. A communiqué stated: 'Enemy aircraft dropped bombs and incendiaries over Tel Aviv several times during the day. Pilots machine-gunned civilians in the streets. A terror raid was carried out over a crowded bus station, and it is feared that more than twenty people were killed.' (Later it was stated officially that forty-one were killed and more than sixty wounded in the bombing of the bus station.) 'Jewish forces in Jerusalem to-day captured Mount Zion, as well as other important objectives near the Old City. Seventy enemy soldiers were taken prisoner, together with their arms. Heavy battles are going on in the Old City.'

Recognition (*see Czechoslovakia and Poland*).

Jerusalem. Fighting continued in the Old City and there was some shelling. More shells fell in the Armenian Patriarchate, wounding twenty-five people.

Arab Operations. It was understood that the Arab Legion had completed the occupation of a large part of the Arab area of Judea and Samaria (*see also Egypt and Iraq*).

Muslim support (*see Pakistan*). Questionnaire (*see Security Council*).

19 May—*Israel.* Recognition (*see Yugoslavia*).

Arab operations (*see Egypt and Iraq*).

Statement by Azzam Pasha (*see Arab League*).

Jerusalem. The Arab Legion attacked from north and east with armoured cars and captured the Sheikh Jarrah quarter. Fighting continued in the Jewish quarter of the Old City.

20 May—*Israel.* The Government declared a state of emergency. It was stated that the Air Force had attacked Arab concentrations in the Samakh area.

Arab operations (*see Transjordan, Egypt, and Syria*).

Zionists detained (*see Lebanon*).

POLAND. 15 May—*Palestine.* Note on intervention (*see Egypt*).

17 May—The peasant parties agreed to unite into one single peasant party, the United Peasant Party, which would form part of the Government *bloc*. The new Party would aim at establishing contacts with peasant movements in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and other countries.

18 May—*Palestine.* The Government announced that it had granted recognition to the State of Israel.

SAUDI ARABIA. 17 May—*Palestine.* Troops to fight with Egyptian army (*see Egypt*).

SOUTH AFRICA. 11 May—Gen. Smuts, speaking in Johannesburg, suggested that the emergence of a united western Europe, with the British Commonwealth as a major partner, might yet provide the balance of power between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. in an effort to stabilize world politics and avert a third world war. Referring to the world's 'lopsided economy', he said it was essential that sterling, which served an immense area, should be preserved as a world currency. If this was

not done there would be world chaos. The balance between sterling and the dollar could be restored by devaluing the dollar, which is too high for the world. He considered that any attempt to divide Germany held the prospect of vast world convulsions in the future.

17 May—Gen. Smuts, in an election speech in Johannesburg, said the Union's membership of the Commonwealth was as important to South Africa as were questions of its internal development.

SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION. 11 May—The first meeting of the Commission, on which were represented Britain, France, the Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, and the U.S.A., met in Sydney. Delegates agreed that the Commission's main objectives must be the welfare of the South Pacific peoples and the solution of their problems without political control by any of the six Powers.

SPAIN. 14 May—Trade Agreement (*see Great Britain*).

SWEDEN. 9 May—*Northern Union*. The Prime Ministers of Norway and Denmark, Hr Gerhardsen and Hr Hedtoft, were among the guests at the Conference of the Social Democratic Party. With the Swedish Prime Minister, they advocated the strengthening of ties between their countries. Hr Erlander said: 'The present tensions in the world have strengthened the solidarity of the Scandinavian peoples. It is urgent to find out if this can become the foundation for practical co-operation.'

Hr Gerhardsen said: 'In an insecure world it is important to strengthen Scandinavian co-operation.' If military unity between the three countries could be reached 'it would be greeted with joy by many in Scandinavia'. Hr Hedtoft said: 'We must join our forces to strengthen the United Nations as an instrument of peace.'

11 May—*Foreign Policy*. The Foreign Minister, Hr Unden, speaking at the Social Democratic Party conference, said: 'Clearly, if the Government does not wish to take part in a western *bloc* it does not wish to do this by way of a Scandinavian alliance either. The three Scandinavian countries can create an independent group of nations with the aim of holding themselves aloof from other international constellations. Such a pact would not threaten anybody. In case of conflict our only aims would be to try to hold the three countries out of the war and to collaborate in defending their own independence if attacked. If such a collaboration would make it easier for us to follow the course we have decided on, it would be in line with our policy hitherto.' He said that Sweden had not received, nor was it expecting, any invitation to join an alliance 'of the old type'. Its sole aim was to convince the world of her absolute will to defend Swedish soil.

Hr Erlander, the Prime Minister, emphasized that these views did not prevent Sweden from having a clear standpoint on the question of democracy or dictatorship.

SYRIA. 9 May—*Palestine*. Azzam Pasha's statement (*see Arab League*).

16 May—*Palestine*. It was stated that Syrian forces operating in

Palestine had captured a former British army camp near Samakh, had driven the Jews from three settlements, and encircled Nuqeib.

17 May—*Palestine*. A communiqué stated that Syrian planes had shot down an enemy aircraft over Tiberias and had bombed the city of Tiberias and sunk two enemy boats.

20 May—*Palestine*. It was stated that the Army had shelled Mishmar Hayarden and aircraft had attacked the settlements at Kinnereth, Yavnil, and Harrawa.

TRANSJORDAN. 13 May—Arab States to finance Arab Legion (*see Egypt*).

14 May—King Abdullah as supreme commander of Arab forces in Palestine (*see Egypt*).

16 May—*Palestine*. It was announced that the Arab Legion had crossed the Allenby bridge and occupied Jericho.

20 May—*Palestine*. A Government communiqué said: 'The Arab forces continue their steady progress in Jerusalem after their occupation of the Sheikh Jarrah quarter and have reached the Damascus Gate. . . Mopping-up operations continue against the remaining points of resistance in the Jewish quarter of the Old City. The Arab Legion artillery continued to shell the Jewish quarters of Jerusalem, and scored a direct hit on an arms and explosives dump.'

A communiqué of the High Command of Arab Armies at Amman announced the occupation of Samakh and progress towards the settlements of Dakonia and Bikania against strong resistance. In the south their forces advanced northward on the coastal road and occupied Beit Hanoun.

King Abdullah received the Regent of Iraq.

UNITED NATIONS

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

7 May—The British, U.S., and French delegates recommended that the Commission report to the Security Council that an *impasse* had been reached, and that until the U.S.S.R. agreed to co-operate with the majority the Commission should suspend its activities. A draft report briefly stated the divergence of views between the U.S.S.R. and the majority: 1. The majority believed that atomic energy must not be developed on the basis of national interests and needs, means, and resources, but that its planning and operation should be made a common enterprise in all its phases. 2. The U.S.S.R. believed that the control plan favoured by the majority would infringe national sovereignty. Moreover it insisted that before any international control authority was set up all nations should sign a convention outlawing atomic bombs and destroy their existing stocks of such weapons. The report continued: 'Thus, after twenty-two months of work, the Commission finds itself confronted by virtually the same deadlock that stultified its initial discussions. The Soviet Government itself acknowledges the deadlock. It is now apparent that this deadlock cannot be broken at the commission level. Both political and technical considerations demand that

no important areas of the world be outside the control system. It is therefore evident that the full co-operation of the U.S.S.R. is indispensable for the establishment of a system of control which would prevent an atomic armaments race'.

17 May—The Commission decided by nine votes to two (U.S.S.R. and Ukraine) that its work should be suspended until such time as there was basic agreement between the great Powers on fundamental problems.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 May—*Palestine*. Hr Finn Moe (Norway) presented a draft resolution suggesting that a temporary United Nations agency or commission be established for Palestine. Assuming there would be a military truce in Palestine, the resolution suggested a commission to take charge of the undivided assets of the country, to act as a mediation body, and to run such central public services as the Jews and Arabs would permit it to run. Finally, it was provided that the Palestine question should come up for review again at the autumn session of the Assembly.

13 May—*Palestine*. The U.S. delegate put forward a resolution suggesting the appointment of a United Nations commissioner. He would be chosen by a committee of the Assembly composed of Britain, U.S.A., France, China, and the U.S.S.R. and would act as mediator (1) to arrange common services for the general population of Palestine, (2) to assure the protection of the holy places, and (3) to promote agreement on the future government of the country.

14 May—*Palestine*. On a motion for a Trusteeship for Jerusalem the voting was 20 for, 15 against, and 19 abstentions. The motion was rejected under the two-thirds majority rule. A U.S. resolution appointing a mediator for Palestine was adopted by 31 votes to 7.

20 May—*Palestine*. The president of the Swedish Red Cross, Count Bernadotte, was unanimously appointed mediator in Palestine.

SECURITY COUNCIL

7 May—*Kashmir*. The Council nominated the U.S.A. as fifth member of the commission for Kashmir. (The other four were Argentina, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, and Colombia.) Sir Zafrullah Khan informed the Council that Pakistan was not in a position to carry out the obligations laid on it by the Council's proposals for a settlement of the Kashmir dispute. The measures indicated in the resolution were not considered 'adequate to ensure a free and impartial plebiscite'.

15 May—*Palestine*. Dr Tsiang (China) declared that U.S. recognition of the Jewish State had added to the difficulties of the Council in stopping or controlling the conflict. The Consular truce commission was the only instrument the Council had to hand inside Palestine. In a war over the question whether there should be a Jewish State in Palestine the usefulness of the commission depended on its strict neutrality. The action of the U.S.A. had compromised the commission.

Palestine. The Council met in emergency session to consider a request from the Jewish Agency to put on its agenda acts of aggression

alleged to have been committed by Transjordan despite British assurances that the Arab Legion was being withdrawn from Palestine. Sir A. Cadogan (Britain) read a telegram from the War Office reporting that all units of the Arab Legion had left for Transjordan.

A Note from the Egyptian Government informed the Council that Egyptian troops had entered Palestine to establish security and order (*see also Egypt*).

Dr Eliash (Jewish Agency) called on the Council to order the Arab States to desist immediately from threats to Palestine. Egyptian aircraft had bombed Tel Aviv and Egyptian troops had wiped out a Jewish village. Israel would defend itself from this wanton aggression. It had a right to expect immediate action by the United Nations.

Mr Nakhle (Arab Higher Committee) said the Arab forces had been invited into Palestine by the Committee, which represented the majority of the people of Palestine.

Mahmud Bey Fawzi (Egypt) said: 'A house contiguous to ours is burning. The fire is rapidly spreading and Egypt has the right and duty to put that fire out.'

16 May—*Palestine*. An appeal was received from the provisional council of Israel to stop Egyptian intervention.

17 May—*Palestine*. Mr Warren Austin (U.S.A.) moved a resolution declaring that a breach of the peace within the meaning of Article 39 of the Charter existed in Palestine and calling on the warring parties to cease fire within thirty-six hours. He also proposed a questionnaire to be submitted to the Arab States, the Arab Higher Committee, and the provisional Government of Israel, asking the Arab States what their military forces in Palestine were doing, the Palestine Arabs whether they had requested assistance from outside, and Israel whether it had forces operating outside the areas claimed for the Jewish States. The Soviet delegate said he was in favour of an immediate decision to end hostilities in Palestine.

An application was received from Mr Shertok, Foreign Minister in the Provisional Council of Israel, for the admission of the State of Israel to the United Nations. It also received a statement from the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Azzam Pasha, on the competence of the Arab States to intervene. He said that the sovereignty of Palestine had reverted to its inhabitants. The actions of a minority had disturbed internal security, and in the administrative vacuum created by the British withdrawal the Arab States had gone in to prevent such deterioration of the situation as might lead to the spread of disorder to their own country.

18 May—*Palestine*. A Jewish Agency spokesman said that the new Jewish State exercised its authority only in those areas allotted to the Jews by the Assembly's partition resolution. Belgium and Ukraine supported the U.S. and Soviet demand for firm action to stop the fighting.

The Council discussed the questionnaire proposed by Mr Austin. Faris Al Khoury (Syria) asked whether the U.S. representative could justify his Government's recognition of the illegal proclamation of the so-called Jewish State. If they could not justify that blunder in inter-

national law, the question should be submitted to the International Court. How could the U.S.A. recognize the Jews as the *de facto* authority? The State was proclaimed at six o'clock and recognized by the U.S.A. two minutes later. Could that be called a *de facto* authority in the international legal sense of the word?

Mr Austin said he did not intend to answer the question but to make a statement. He could not admit that there was any tribunal in the world which could judge the legality of the U.S. Government's recognition of Israel. There were some powers and some rights that were not yielded to the United Nations and right of recognition was one of them. 'No one can question the sovereignty of the United States in this matter.'

Dr Charles Malik (Lebanon) said that if the U.S.A. objected to having its sovereignty questioned it was equally improper for its questionnaire to ask whether Arab Governments had entered into any agreements among themselves with respect to Palestine.

Sir A. Cadogan (Britain) proposed to substitute for the term 'provisional Government of Israel' the words 'Jewish authorities in Palestine'. Britain also thought that two additional questions should be asked the Jews: 'Do you have forces operating outside Palestine?' and 'Have you arranged for entry into Palestine in the near future of men of military age from outside Palestine? If so, in what numbers and where are they coming from?'

The Council later adopted the questionnaire with this amendment.

19 May—*Palestine*. Commenting on the U.S. resolution ordering a cessation of hostilities, Sir Alexander Cadogan said that the British Government could not agree to Article 39 of the Charter being invoked at that stage because they were doubtful whether there was a threat to international peace or a breach of international peace and they would fear that the search for an aggressor would lead the Council into interminable wrangles. He put forward an amended version of the U.S. proposal which read: 'The Council, bearing in mind the change in the juridical status of Palestine consequent upon the termination of the mandate, and the necessity for further clarification of this status, and taking into consideration that previous resolutions of the Council in respect of Palestine have not been complied with and that military operations are taking place in Palestine, calls upon all parties concerned in Palestine to abstain from acts of armed force against each other, and to that end to issue a cease-fire order to their military and para-military forces to become effective within thirty-six hours after the adoption of this resolution; calls upon the Truce Commission and upon all parties concerned to give the highest priority to the negotiation and maintenance of a truce in the city of Jerusalem; directs the Truce Commission established by the Council by its resolution of 23 April 1948 to report to the Council on the compliance with the two preceding paragraphs of this resolution; and requests the committee appointed by the General Assembly of 14 May to proceed as expeditiously as possible with the appointment of a United Nations mediator for Palestine and calls upon all parties concerned to avail themselves of his good offices in order to seek a solution by mediation. Belgium and China supported the British

amendment. Mr Warren Austin said that there was a war in Palestine, and the Council, which had exhausted the possibilities of pacific settlement under Chapter 6, could no longer avoid its duty of determining a breach of the peace under Article 39. He declined to accept the amendment. The spokesman for Israel said the Council had material on which to make a finding of aggression against the Arabs. The simple criterion should be who started the fighting first. The Arab States were making war in support of a cause which the United Nations had found inadmissible. The Charter as well as the peace of Israel was at stake.

20 May—*Palestine*. The chairman of the Truce Commission in Palestine, in a telegram to the Council, said he believed it 'impossible to prevent the complete occupation of the Arab zone by the Arab States. In order to prevent or limit attacks on the Jewish area, the only practical way seems to be strong diplomatic or military pressure on the Arab States.'

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

13 May—*Jerusalem*. Appointment of Special Commissioner (*see Great Britain*).

U.S.A. 9 May—*U.S.-Soviet relations*. Molotov broadcast (*see USSR*).

10 May—The Secretary of Agriculture, Mr Anderson, resigned.

Foreign Aid. President Truman asked Congress to provide an additional \$818 million foreign assistance, including \$275 million for the military portion of the Greek-Turkish aid programme, \$463 million for China, and also assistance for Trieste. (This was in addition to the aid planned under the European Recovery Programme.)

Strike. President Truman signed an order for the seizure of the railways and directed the Secretary of the Army to operate them for the Government. He stated later that 'a strike on our railroads would be a nation-wide tragedy with world-wide repercussions'.

11 May—*Strike*. The Government secured an injunction forbidding the railway strike, and the unions later rescinded the strike order.

U.S.-Soviet Relations. President Truman in a statement declared: 'With regard to the recent exchange of views between Ambassador Smith and Foreign Minister Molotov in Moscow, it was felt by this Government that in view of the adoption of E.R.P. as a definite expression of policy, and of the President's recent recommendation to Congress concerning the military establishment, it was important that there should be no misconception or confusion in the minds of the Soviet Government concerning the position of this Government. Accordingly Ambassador Smith was directed to seek an interview with Mr Molotov in order to set forth as clearly as could be expressed the policies and purposes of the U.S.A. with regard to the U.S.S.R. and thus avoid any unfortunate misunderstanding in view of the character of current propaganda statements. The statement made by Ambassador Smith represented no new departure in U.S. policy. It was a reiteration of the U.S. position as it has been repeatedly expressed both publicly and privately.'

The text was published of the U.S. *aide-mémoire* to the U.S.S.R. (see p. 344). It said: 'Policies of the U.S. Government in international questions have been made amply clear in recent months and weeks. They have the support of the overwhelming majority of the American people. They will continue to be vigorously and firmly prosecuted. On the other hand, this Government wishes to make it unmistakably clear that the United States has no hostile or aggressive designs whatsoever with respect to the Soviet Union.' The determination of the American people to carry out the E.R.P. increased as Russian opposition to it was shown. The Marshall Plan was merely a measure for giving U.S. help on a joint basis, without threats against any one. Internal political considerations had had, and would have, no influence on that policy. Nor would an economic crisis—which Communist parties all over the world continually predicted—should that happen, affect U.S. industrial capacity or the bases of U.S. foreign policy. 'The present international situation involves questions which are of vital importance to the security of the U.S.A. and to universal peace. The policy of the U.S.A. is so worked out that it cannot in any way have an unfavourable influence on the interests of the U.S.S.R. if the U.S.S.R. strives to live in peace with its other neighbours and refrains from attempts to render direct or indirect influence on the affairs of others.' In fact, many elements of foreign policy which were so criticized in the Soviet press would not have arisen if the U.S.A. had not to render aid to other countries to protect their political integrity from attempts on the part of Communist minorities to capture power and establish régimes subordinated to foreign interests. 'If these attempts cease then the necessity for certain manifestations in the foreign policy of the U.S.A. which evidently cause dissatisfaction in Moscow will be eliminated. Up to now we have not in any way relinquished hope of such a change in policy. As for the U.S.A., the door always remains open for the discussion and settlement of our differences. The Government sincerely hope that members of the Soviet Government will not disregard the policy of the U.S. Government as outlined here. If they do not do this they will not meet on our part any lack of readiness or desire to make our contribution towards a stabilization of world conditions which will be fully compatible with the security of the Soviet people.'

U.S.-Soviet Relations. Mr Henry Wallace, in an open letter addressed to Mr Stalin, put forward proposals for the improvement of relations between the two countries. These included: a general reduction of armaments and prohibition of atomic weapons; conclusion of the peace treaties with Germany and Japan and the question of the evacuation of troops from these countries; evacuation of troops from China and Korea; respect for the sovereignty of individual countries and non-interference in their domestic affairs; the inadmissibility of military bases in the member countries of the United Nations; world development of international trade, excluding any sort of discrimination; assistance to and economic restoration, in the framework of the United Nations, of the countries which suffered from the war; defence of democracy and the ensuring of civil rights in all countries.

12 May—*U.S.-Soviet Relations*. Mr Marshall told the press that Gen. Bedell Smith was instructed to see Mr Molotov 'to reaffirm the formal position of this Government and to distinguish it from the mass of unofficial statements. . . Our responsibility was to make clear the position of the U.S. Government and of the U.S.A. alone. Gen. Smith did not ask for any general discussion or negotiation. We have had a long and bitter experience with such efforts. This Government had no intention of entering into bilateral negotiations with the U.S.S.R. on matters relating to the interests of other Governments. The discussion of any proposals in regard to outstanding issues which the Soviet Government may have in mind must, as a matter of course, be conducted in the body charged with responsibility for these questions. What we want is action in the fields where action is possible and urgently necessary at the present time. I refer to the matters before the Security Council and other United Nations bodies, such as the situation in Korea, questions before the Allied Control Council in Berlin and the Austrian treaty negotiations, where the utmost of difficulties have arisen and stalemates generally have resulted. It would be very unfortunate if an attempt was made to sit down at a table and enter into general discussions and have the discussions result in failure to reach agreements or result in disputes over the obligations which might be undertaken in such agreements. That would do the world great harm. We cannot afford a continuation of such failures. What we must have is successful action where such action is most sorely needed.'

U.S.-Soviet Relations. Bevin Statement. (see *Great Britain*).

13 May—*Defence*. President Truman asked Congress for an extra \$2,434,441,000 for defence. He said it was needed because of the increased military requirements contemplated in his Message of 17 March (see p. 198), and was additional to the military estimates and the request for an appropriation for aircraft.

European Recovery Programme. The Administrator, Mr Hoffman, answering questions put by the Senate Appropriations Committee, said British recovery was a very 'rugged problem', and that a very strong mission would be set up in Britain. Asked about his attitude towards nationalization, he said: 'Unless we have some further directive we believe that our business should be confined to recovery.' If, for instance, plans were submitted to his administration for the investment of dollars in the modernization of the steel industry and at the same time the British Government announced plans for nationalizing that industry, the question he would have to decide was merely whether the nationalization plans might, because of the transitional difficulties, work against quick recovery of the industry. 'We would have to decide whether the investment would promote recovery and not pass judgment on whether nationalization was desirable or not in the long run.' If the coal industry, already nationalized, could be helped by the use of U.S. funds, those funds would not be withheld because the industry was nationalized. 'Our goal is economic and our objective recovery.'

14 May—*Palestine*. The President issued the following announcement: 'This Government has been informed that a Jewish State has

been proclaimed in Palestine, and recognition has been requested by the provisional Government thereof. The U.S.A. recognizes the provisional Government as the *de facto* authority of the new State of Israel.'

The President's Press Secretary in a separate statement said: 'The desire of the U.S.A. to obtain a truce in Palestine will in no way be lessened by the proclamation of a Jewish State. We hope that the new Jewish State will join with the Security Council Truce Commission in redoubled efforts to bring an end to the fighting which has been throughout the United Nations considerations of Palestine a principal objective of this Government.'

Agriculture. President Truman, in a message to Congress proposing a farm programme to maintain a productive and prosperous agriculture, urged prompt action on, first, a permanent system of flexible price support for agricultural commodities; secondly, the continuance and expansion of the programme of soil conservation; thirdly, programmes to ensure adequate consumption of agricultural products; and, fourthly, other means of assisting farmers to meet their special problems.

15 May—*Palestine.* It was stated at the White House that the President was considering the lifting of the arms embargo against the Middle East, but that this represented nothing new as the problem had been under consideration for some time.

Note on intervention (*see Egypt*).

17 May—*Palestine.* Dr Weizmann, who was ill in New York, announced his acceptance of the office of President of the provincial council of Israel (*see p. 332*).

U.S.-Soviet Relations. Stalin reply to Wallace letter (*see U.S.S.R.*).

18 May—*U.S.-Soviet Relations.* The State Department, commenting on Mr Stalin's reply to Mr Wallace's open letter, declared: 'Premier Stalin's opinion that a peaceful settlement of outstanding problems is possible and necessary in the interests of a general peace is encouraging, but the specific issues listed in his statement are not bilateral issues between this country and the U.S.S.R. They are of intimate and compelling interest to many countries and have been under negotiation for the past two years or more in bodies where other countries were represented, such as the United Nations and the Council of Foreign Ministers.'

19 May—*European Recovery Programme.* Mr Thomas Finletter, former chairman of President Truman's air policy commission, was appointed to head the E.R.P. mission to Britain.

U.S.-Soviet Relations. Mr Marshall, commenting on Mr Stalin's reply to Mr Wallace's open letter, said that the sincerity of the stated desire of the U.S.S.R. would be determined by its attitude in various bodies where negotiations were now under way, and where progress had been prevented by Soviet opposition. What the world needed was constructive and remedial action, particularly on the questions which were before international bodies.

State Department officials issued a statement on the eleven issues which Mr Stalin, in his reply to Mr Wallace's letter, had said he thought should be made the subject of renewed negotiations. The points made

were: (1) Reduction of armaments.—Since 1946 this had been and still was under consideration in the Commission for Conventional Armaments of the U.N. Security Council. (2) Atomic energy.—The U.S.S.R., Poland, and the Ukraine had blocked effective agreement on the international control of atomic energy. The *impasse* reached after nearly two years and 220 meetings of the Atomic Energy Commission led State Department officials to the conclusion 'that further work at the Commission level would be futile'. This did not mean that the efforts to achieve international control of atomic energy were to be terminated. (3) German peace settlement.—'Soviet opposition to virtually every proposition put forward by the U.S.A., Britain, and France has thus far blocked all progress on this question.' (4) Japanese peace settlement.—The U.S.A. proposed that an eleven-nation peace conference be held for this purpose under a two-thirds majority voting procedure. The U.S.S.R. had insisted that the matter be considered by the Council of Foreign Ministers. China had favoured an eleven-nation conference but had insisted that the 'Big Four' have veto power over all decisions. (5) Evacuation of troops from China.—There were 1,496 soldiers and 4,125 navy and marine service men belonging to the United States in China. 'These forces remain there at the request of the national Government.' (6) Evacuation of troops from Korea.—Recalling the U.N. General Assembly plan for Korea worked out last year, the statement declared: 'The U.S.S.R. denied the United Nations commission entry into the north zone of Korea. It has not only refused to collaborate in any way in the implementation of the United Nations plan but has attempted to proceed unilaterally with a plan of its own which threatens to lead to civil war among the Koreans themselves.' (7) Respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs. 'The facts bearing on this subject are too voluminous for recapitulation. The actions and policies of the two Governments in this respect are a matter of public record and speak for themselves.' (8) Military bases.—The statement recalled that, by decision of the U.N. General Assembly, the retention of armed forces on the territories of members was conditional on the freely and publicly expressed consent of such members, and that the U.S.A. has made it a practice to register with the United Nations all agreements it had reached in this connexion. 'It is of interest to note that the U.S.A. has proposed in the Security Council that armed forces acting under the Security Council have unlimited rights of passage and rights to use bases wherever located. The U.S.S.R. has rejected this proposal.' (9) International trade.—'The Soviet Government declined to participate in either the Geneva or the Havana Conference.' (10) Assistance to war-devastated countries.—'The aid being extended by the U.S.A. to other countries on a world-wide scale, through both United Nations channels and others, should be an adequate answer to this point.' (11) Human rights.—'The United Nations Human Rights Commission was now drafting a declaration and covenant on this matter, and since both the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. were active members of this commission it is difficult to see how this matter could be advanced in any other forum. It lies in

the nature of this subject that it is eminently a multilateral and international problem, and both the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. have, in the United Nations Commission, a wholly adequate forum in which to put forward their views.'

Tass comment on State Department statement (see *U.S.S.R.*).

United Nations. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approved a resolution seeking major revisions of the United Nations within the framework of the existing Charter.

The Hungarian Minister, Mr Rustem Vambery, resigned, giving as his reason attacks on the U.S.A. by Hungary and the Hungarian Government's failure to send him a sufficiently large staff to deal properly with economic matters.

U.S.S.R. 9 May—U.S.-Soviet relations. The Government broadcast its reply, delivered by Mr Molotov, to a U.S. *aide-mémoire* (not previously published) which it announced that the U.S. Ambassador, Gen. Bedell Smith, had handed over on 4 May. It said: 'The Government adopts a positive attitude towards the wishes of the U.S. Government expressed in that statement to improve these relations and is in agreement with the proposal to begin in this connection a discussion and settlement of the differences existing between us.' Other points were:

Eastern Europe. At the same time they could not agree 'that the cause of the present unsatisfactory state of Soviet-American relations is the policy of the U.S.S.R. in Eastern Europe and the increase in the influence of the Soviet Union. As for the relations of the U.S.S.R. with neighbouring and other countries in Europe, the Soviet Government can, with satisfaction, put on record that actually these relations have considerably improved since the war. This has found expression in the conclusion between the U.S.S.R. and these countries of treaties of friendship and mutual assistance, which are directed exclusively against a repetition of aggression on the part of Germany and her possible allies and which, contrary to the statement of the U.S. Ambassador, contain no secret protocols. The countries indicated, through which German aggression passed, are interested in the conclusion of these treaties. It is known that the U.S.A. is also pursuing a policy to strengthen its relations with neighbouring countries—for instance, Canada, Mexico, and also other countries of America—which is fully understandable. It is equally understandable that the U.S.S.R. is also pursuing a policy of strengthening its relations with neighbouring and other countries of Europe. The U.S.S.R. will continue in the future to pursue a policy of strengthening friendly relations with these countries of Europe.' The Government could not agree with the U.S. statement that certain foreign political measures of the U.S.A. in other countries, which cause dissatisfaction on the part of the U.S.S.R., are the result of the influence of the U.S.S.R. in the internal affairs of these countries. It would be totally incorrect to ascribe the democratic changes which had taken place in eastern Europe since the war, which were a measure of defence against the threat of a new war and which, in view of this, had created favourable conditions for friendly relations between these countries

and the U.S.S.R., to interference by the Soviet Union in the internal affairs of these countries . . . 'No one has the right to dispute that the bringing about of democratic changes is the internal affair of every State. However, from the statement of the United States Government it is clear that it holds a different view, and on its part permits interference in the internal affairs of other States which cannot fail to evoke serious objections on the part of the Soviet Government. The events in Greece are not the only example of such interference in the internal affairs of other States.'

European Recovery Programme. 'The U.S. Government explains the present unsatisfactory state of U.S.-Soviet relations as being due to the stand of the Government on this programme. Yet it is perfectly clear that were the question of the economic rehabilitation of the European countries not put in the way it is in this programme, but put on the basis of the normal conditions of international economic co-operation within the framework of the United Nations Organization . . . there would be no cause for a negative attitude on the part of the U.S.S.R. towards the programme.'

U.S. Foreign Policy. 'The Government considers that the present unsatisfactory state of U.S.-Soviet relations and the tense character of the international situation is a result of the policy of the U.S. Government during the recent period and is encouraged primarily by the steps taken by the U.S. Government towards the still greater development of the network of military, naval, and aircraft bases in all parts of the globe, and including territories neighbouring on the U.S.S.R. U.S. press and official representatives declare outright that the creation of these bases aims at encircling the U.S.S.R. The present atmosphere in international relations encourages all kinds of military threats against the U.S.S.R. and emanates from definite circles closely connected with the U.S. Government. Contrary to this, the Soviet Government is pursuing a consistent peace policy towards the U.S.A. and other States, is creating no military bases in other countries, and is not permitting herself to make any threats against any one at all.'

Western Union. 'While all the treaties of mutual assistance between the U.S.S.R. and the eastern European countries, and also with Britain and France, aim at preventing new aggression on the part of Germany and are not directed against any allied States, the military alliance which has been formed of five western Powers, as is seen from the treaty, not only has Germany in mind but to an equal degree can be directed against all States which were allies in the second world war. In addition, it cannot be passed over that the creation of the military alliance indicated became possibly only thanks to the sponsorship of the U.S. Government. It is clear that the military alliance of the five western States cannot be regarded as a treaty of self-defence.'

Trade Relations. In U.S. trade policy the most-favoured-nation principle was 'ignored, in direct contradiction to the Soviet-American trade agreement . . .'

Conclusion. 'The U.S. Government now declare that they entertain no hostile or aggressive intentions towards the U.S.S.R. and express the

hope that it will be possible to find a way of establishing good and rational relations between our two countries.' The Soviet Government could only welcome this statement for it had always pursued, and intended also in the future to pursue, a policy of peace and co-operation towards the U.S.A., with the unanimous approval and support of the peoples of the U.S.S.R. 'The Soviet Government hope that it will be possible to find means of removing existing differences and establishing between our countries good relations, corresponding both to the interests of our peoples and to the strengthening of universal peace.'

11 May—*U.S.-Soviet Relations*. Wallace letter to Stalin (see *U.S.A.*).
U.S.-Soviet Relations. Bevin statement (see *Great Britain*).

17 May—*U.S.-Soviet Relations*. Mr Stalin, replying to the open letter addressed to him by Mr Henry Wallace (see p. 340), said he considered it 'a most important document'. He continued: 'The inadequacy of the statement of the U.S. Government of 4 May and the reply of the U.S.S.R. Government of 9 May consist in the fact that they go no further than declaring the desirability of settling the Soviet-American differences. The important meaning of the open letter consists in the fact that it does not limit itself to a declaration, but goes further, makes a serious step forward, and gives a concrete programme for peaceful settlement of the differences between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. It cannot be said that Mr Wallace's open letter embraces all questions of difference without exception, nor . . . that certain formulations . . . do not need to be improved. The main thing is that Mr Wallace in his letter makes an open and honest attempt to give a concrete programme for a peaceful settlement on all basic questions of difference between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. There is no statesman caring for peace and co-operation among the peoples who can ignore this programme, since it reflects the hopes and strivings of the peoples towards the consolidation of peace, and it doubtless will have the support of many millions of ordinary people. I do not know whether the U.S. Government approves of Mr Wallace's programme as a basis for agreement between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. As far as the Government of the U.S.S.R. is concerned it considers that Mr Wallace's programme could serve as a good and fruitful basis for such an agreement and for the development of international co-operation, since the U.S.S.R. Government considers that, in spite of the difference in the economic systems and ideologies, the co-existence of these systems and a peaceful settlement of differences between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. are not only possible but also necessary in the interests of a general peace.'

Palestine. The Government announced that it had granted recognition to the State of Israel. The text of the Israelite request and the Soviet reply was broadcast. Mr Shertok wrote: 'The Council addresses all Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel with an appeal to return to peaceful life, and thus to ensure as far as they are concerned the development of this State on the basis of the inviolable and equal rights of citizens and proper representation in the provisional and Government organs of that State. The council also proposes peace to all neighbouring countries and their peoples, and invites them to co-operate with the

State of Israel for the common good.' Mr Molotov wrote: 'The Soviet Government hopes that the creation by the Jewish people of its sovereign State will serve the cause of strengthening peace and security in Palestine and the Near East, and expresses its confidence in the successful development of friendly relations between the U.S.S.R. and the State of Israel.'

18 May—*U.S.-Soviet Relations*. U.S. Government comment on Stalin statement (see *U.S.A.*).

19 May—*U.S.-Soviet Relations*. In comment on the U.S. statement on Mr Stalin's reply to Mr Wallace's letter, *Tass*, quoting 'the opinion of leading circles of the U.S.S.R.', declared: 'The statement evokes surprise here, for the U.S. attitude is in complete contradiction to the statement of the U.S. Government of 4 May, where the possibility of bilateral negotiations was not only not denied but, on the contrary, assumed as something obvious, for in the opposite case the U.S. Government would not consider it possible to make a statement to the Soviet Government concerning the desirability of settling questions of difference. Moreover, as is known, under the Roosevelt Government the most difficult international questions were settled between representatives of the U.S.A., the U.S.S.R., and Great Britain in complete agreement and unanimity for more than three years. The question therefore arises: Why now is it considered impossible to reach agreed decisions of the Powers on new, less difficult questions? Is it not perhaps because the present Government of the U.S.A. has departed from the Roosevelt policy and is pursuing a different policy? The Soviet public considers that the situation that has arisen is the result of the aggressive attitude adopted by the present U.S. Government.'

Statement by U.S. State Department officials (see *U.S.A.*).

Yugoslav Frontier. Note (see *Italy*).

20 May—*Gatow Air Crash*. The Government rejected the British claim for compensation for the loss of British lives and property caused by the crash, and made a counter-claim in respect of the Soviet machine and its pilot.

VATICAN. 14 May—*Persecution of Roman Catholics*. It was learned that among those who had been executed since the beginning of the year after summary trials held in secret were the Regent of the Apostolic Delegation, Mgr. Gjini, Father Matteo Prennushi, Father Cipriano Nikai, Mgr. Nicola Deda, and twenty other persons. It was understood that the Archbishop of Durazzo and the Vicar-General of Scutari were serving long prison sentences.

17 May—It was stated that the Bishop of Mostar, Yugoslavia, had been arrested; the reason for his arrest and the place where he was detained were unknown. (This meant that all three sees of Herzegovina were vacant.)

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS. 7 May—*Rome Meetings*. Mr Hill (Jamaica) advocated direct action by national trade union centres against countries where workers' rights were infringed.

Dr Wickramasinghe (Ceylon), who spoke on behalf of the Indian delegate who was still under arrest, alleged that the British T.U.C. were still responsible for repression of trade unionists in India and extended his attack to the U.S. unions. Mr Tewson (T.U.C.) and Mr Carey (C.I.O.) refuted the allegations.

10 May—*Rome Meetings*. It was agreed that the postponement of the *Force Ouvrière's* application was without prejudice and that the *status quo* would continue until the matter could be discussed. Summing up the work of the conference, the president, Mr Arthur Deakin (T.U.C.) said: 'We have got over our immediate difficulties, but problems we have failed to face still present us with a number of obstacles to overcome which will need all our good will and energy if the W.F.T.U. is to survive.'

YUGOSLAVIA. 17 May—Stane Oswald, a former Vice-minister of Industry, Boris Krajnc, a former member of the trade delegation in London, two Slovene Communists, two Austrian Communists, and four others were executed for war crimes and post-war sabotage for an unnamed western Power.

Arrest of Bishop of Mostar (*see Vatican*).

19 May—*Palestine*. The Government announced its recognition without qualification of the provisional Government of Israel.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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| May | 21 | Annual Congress of the Liberal International, Zurich. |
| " | 26 | General Election in South Africa. |
| " | 30 | General Election in Czechoslovakia. |
| June | 1 | Arab and Jewish States in Palestine to be formed. |
| " | 1 | I.C.A.O. Conference, Geneva. |
| " | 1 | United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, Ootacamund, India. |
| " | 4 | International Socialist Conference, Vienna. |
| " | 7 | United Nations Economic Commission for South America, Santiago. |
| " | 8 | International Chamber of Commerce, Paris. |
| " | 10 | World Power Conference, Stockholm. |
| " | 17 | I.L.O. Conference, San Francisco. |
| " | 24 | United Nations: World Health Organization Inaugural Conference, Geneva. |
| July | 12 | Economic and Social Council, Geneva. |
| Aug. | 1 | Completion of British withdrawal from Palestine. |
| " | 22 | First Assembly of the World Council of Churches, Amsterdam. |
| Sept. | 21 | U.N. General Assembly, Paris. |
| " | 27 | British Africa Conference, London. |
| Oct. | 1 | Arab and Jewish States to become independent. |